

"...That I May Win Christ..." (Phil. 3:8; Judges 1:12-13)

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That I May Win Christ (Phil 3:8; Judges 1:12-13)

There is nothing more dreadful to the high school aged young man than the word a young lady might say to him

"Why don't we just be friends," it's like a dagger to the heart. I was given the dreaded words so many times.

I didn't want to hear them. It's not that it was all that bad being the friend of a girl, but I wanted to be so much more than that to her. She could have a lot of friends but I wanted to be that one special one. I wanted to hold her hand. I wanted her to look at me differently than he looked at

everyone else. I believe this is what Paul is similarly referring to in his relationship w/ God here in Phil 3:8. What does he mean "Win Christ"? We are not saved in winning some sort of race. Paul was saved on the Road to Damascus long before this letter. No Paul is not about Salvation. He is talking about a deep abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus. An intimacy that is developed after salvation that is bestowed upon by Salvation. Every Christian can win Christ an enjoyment in an intimate relationship with him by seeing 3 truths NOT

Love Developed. - Judges 1:12-13 If you will recall Caleb was one of 2 spies sent into the land of Canaan & gave a favorable report. Faithful to God. Deut 1:36 Promised the land. Joh 15 Old

man took care of it but Kerjathsepher 'strong hold of Hell'

A. The Position He Had Jud 1:13 - Ethniel was not some stranger to the family of Caleb, Caleb was his Uncle, Achsah was his cousin. There was a family familiarity between Ethniel and Achsah. Any time he wanted to talk to her he could, Any time he wanted to come over he was welcome. He was not treated with suspicion, He was family. This is true of every believer in Christ from the moment we repent and believe, we are ^{presence} intimate to come boldly to throne of Grace, welcomed to linger in

B. The Place He Wanted - But this position in the family, as wonderful as it was, somewhere along the way became unsatisfactory, may be it was the humbleness in her eye that he noticed one day, despite the warmth of her smile, but somewhere along the way he fell in love. He longed to me more than acquaintance, he wanted to have an intimate relationship that said "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." Ah this is so true of the maturing believer who begins, to realize the love and ^{wonder of} grace + mercy.

II Love Deployed - This developing love was given an opportunity to deploy itself to put shoe leather on its desires. Ethniel moping around with lovesick blues, runs into a hudd

Deuteronomy 1:36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

Decided to give Achsah in marriage to anyone who would take the city. Here is where we are introduced to our Romeo of the love story.

To be comforted by Christ. To share our hearts with him.
Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

In the words of that unforgettable American poet and songwriter
Roger Miller - There's not limit to all I'd go through for you any
thing you ask of me, I'll make it my destiny. Well Thunder Rolling
lightning flashing right through the middle of it I'd go dashing, goes
to show how far I'll go for it you want me to.

Ivor Powell - There is no limit to what a man will attempt when
love reigns within. Paul said the love of Christ constrains me.
Daily he went out to bring all things under subjection to Christ.

Othniel could never had won Achsah if he stayed in his living
room with his sneakers on. He had to go out and battle to win her
hand.

John 10:10 ...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly

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Have you heard the news. Achsah's getting married! What
A. The Residents He Fought - Kirjath-
sepher. Right slain in the middle of
Caleb's promised territory was as due
- Powell said it "A stronghold of hell"
An entrenched enemy of God and God's
people. This land was a free land but it had
to be taken. John 10:10 is as true as the rest
of the Bible. But an abundant life is not a bed
of roses. It's a life of battles and a life of
warfare. There are deeply entrenched enemies
in our flesh, there are territories in the work
that we must invade, there is devil that we must ^{clash w/}

B. The Reason He Fought - I don't know
how he did it. It just says he took it! It was
clearly a miraculous battle, just like most of those
O.T. battles were, God won the victory. But in the
middle of our victory pride don't forget
about why he fought this battle to begin w/. It
was not for the acclaim of men. It was not for
self accomplishment or to make a name for himself
There wasn't even a guarantee that he would get any
of the taken land. It was only to win his ^{people}
beloved! What a spell have cast on the heart
- Jacob: 14 years for Rachel, duor Powell said.

III. Love Delivered - Caleb was true
to his word. I believe he was delighted
to give his daughters hand in marriage
to this courageous young warrior. I don't believe

Achsah had no objections to this hunk of Soldier Boy!

A. The Affection He was Given - What a wedding that must have been. The war hero and one of the most famous daughters of Israel. Finally His dreams and aspirations had come true. Now the look in her eye the touch of her hand was different. A whole new world of experience and intimacy was upon them. This should be our aspiration ^{for a deep, intimate} & desire.

B. The Access He Gained vs 14 By marrying Achsah he gained a special access to Caleb the owner of the promise. I was listening to Johnny the Baptist - Hates sin in law but loves his little girl. Achsah had the heart of her father. Therefore thru Achsah Othiel had the ear of the father. Thank God a helmsman we have an advocate Jesus Christ Righteous, clean & honest.

C. The Abundance He was Granted vs 15 She asked for the special blessing of springs of water for her & her man. Waters of abundance. Waters of necessity. And old Caleb just could not tell her no. When ever you see springing waters in O.T. it's a picture of the work of the H.S. In. 7:38-39. The rich abundant Christian life is not founded in possessions & riches ^{but by the}.

IV. Closing - That I may win Christ!

There are many goals we should have in our Christian life. Witnessing, Prayers, Bible devotion, giving, worship. But all pale in comparison to winning Christ ^{these fall into place.}

...In an intimate abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus we have special access to the Father. John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 7:38-39 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

But by the spiritual blessings of God and the ever flowing presence of the Holy spirit.